

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 349 without my signature.

Health plans and insurers should be encouraging their enrollees to use electronic billing and automatic payment of premiums. As the health care system increasingly moves to a electronic age, there should not be statutory encouragement for retaining a paper-based system.

I embrace health care technology and all the efficiencies that it brings to providers and patients. It was an important component in my comprehensive health care reform plan and I would encourage the Legislature to work with me on adopting such a plan.

For this reason, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger